



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

March 25, 2002

Date of Deposit

Andrew D. Stover

Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

March 25, 2002

Date of Signature



Our Case No.: 659/920
K-C Ref. No.: 17,595

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Richlen et al.

Serial No.: 10/032,701

Filing Date: December 28, 2001

For: **ABSORBENT GARMENT HAVING
A WEAKENED REGION**

Examiner: To be assigned

Group Art Unit No.: 2185

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and

made of record. Copies of the listed documents required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

The references now cited are the following:

No.	Date	Name
3,488,778	1/1970	Goujon et al.
3,667,466	6/1972	Ralph
3,845,682	11/1974	Willhite et al.
4,269,188	5/1981	Nishizawa et al.
4,407,284	10/1983	Pieniak
4,480,000	10/1984	Watanabe et al.
4,573,986	3/1986	Minetola et al.
4,610,681	9/1986	Strohbeen et al.
4,619,649	10/1986	Roberts
4,646,362	3/1987	Heran et al.
4,675,015	6/1987	Brown
4,681,580	7/1987	Reising et al.
4,687,477	8/1987	Suzuki et al.
4,699,622	10/1987	Toussant et al.
4,770,656	9/1988	Proxmire et al.
4,771,483	9/1988	Hooreman et al.
4,842,596	6/1989	Kielpikowski et al.
4,850,988	7/1989	Aledo et al.
4,850,992	7/1989	Amaral et al.
4,886,632	12/1989	Van Iten et al.
4,940,464	7/1990	Van Gompel et al.
5,037,414	8/1991	Booth
5,141,142	8/1992	Ramsey
5,340,424	8/1994	Matsushita
5,370,634	12/1994	Ando et al.
5,375,751	12/1994	Makinen
5,415,649	5/1995	Watanabe et al.
5,449,353	9/1995	Watanabe et al.
5,531,732	7/1996	Wood
5,573,524	11/1996	Sardo
5,603,708	2/1997	Seth
5,746,730	3/1998	Suzuki et al.
5,795,350	8/1998	Schmitz
5,820,617	10/1998	Igaue et al.
5,855,574	1/1999	Kling et al.
5,876,392	3/1999	Hisada
5,879,500	3/1999	Herrin et al.
5,881,622	3/1999	Kaipf

6,027,484	2/2000	Romare
6,083,210	7/2000	Young et al.
6,110,157	8/2000	Schmidt
6,160,200	12/2000	Ehrnsperger et al.

J1036 U.S. BTO
 10/032701
 12/28/01

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

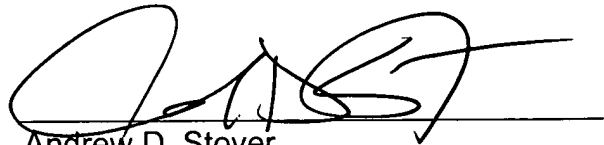
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY
EP 0319314	12/1988	EPO
EP 0844062A1	5/1998	EPO
EP 0757550B1	12/1998	EPO
WO 97/45333	12/1997	PCT
WO 98/43573	10/1998	PCT
WO 98/55292	12/1998	PCT
WO 98/56328	12/1998	PCT
WO 00/00119	1/2000	PCT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Applicant(s) respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Stover', is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew D. Stover
Registration No. 38,629
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200